



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Media Advisory #09-069 / 125 / 1468

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009

Story and video footage opportunity:

Sixth annual "Shop with a Cop" Christmas

This advisory concerns the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office "Shop with a Cop" Christmas program.

Location: The North Kitsap WAL*MART Store, 21200 Olhava Way NW, Poulsbo.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Purpose: The Kitsap County Sheriff's Corrections Officers Association will host their sixth annual "Shop with a Cop" Christmas in Kitsap County.

The program is designed to help bring holiday joy to disadvantaged children within the community, and to help foster positive community relations between law enforcement and these youngsters.

Participating agencies include:

- Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, corrections officers, support specialists, evidence technicians, Citizens on Patrol volunteers and sheriff's administration
- Bainbridge Island Police, Bremerton Police, Port Orchard Police, Poulsbo Police and Suquamish Police Departments
- Washington State Patrol (District 8)
- Poulsbo Fire Department
- Kitsap County Central Communications
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- U. S. Army
- U. S. Navy
- U. S. Coast Guard
- Washington State Army National Guard
- Cadets from military reserve officer training corps units

"Shop with a Cop" is centered on community participation and law enforcement support. The children will be provided \$100 gift cards to spend on Christmas shopping however they may wish. Uniformed escorts act as chaperons to help the junior shoppers make sound decisions and assist them in keeping track of how much they spend.

The goal for Christmas 2009 is to provide this opportunity for more than 110 children, some who are homeless and living out of shelters. This number is a significant increase from the program's first launch, in December 2004, when 28 children participated.

Funding for the "Shop with a Cop" program was raised through volunteer efforts by officers with the sheriff's office corrections division, the state department of corrections, South Kitsap High School Navy Junior ROTC cadets and various family members and friends.

In addition to the \$100 gift cards, children also will be provided \$25 vouchers to be used toward the purchase of school supplies and needs. The vouchers are made possible by the United Way of Kitsap County.

The children will be met at WAL*MART by uniformed personnel where they will pair-up with their 'cop,' while awaiting the arrival of Sheriff Steve Boyer who will be escorting Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to the store. Each child will have the opportunity to have his or her photograph taken with a uniformed officer and the Claus', and then begin their shopping expedition. The children may use the money to purchase gifts for themselves or family members or friends. Gift wrapping will be available.

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